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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,347	09/22/2003	Teruyuki Maruyama	243043US2	7039

22850 7590 11/17/2009
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EXAMINER

LAI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2457

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/17/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/665,347	Applicant(s) MARUYAMA, TERUYUKI	
	Examiner MICHAEL C. LAI	Art Unit 2457	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 42-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 42-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/6/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to amendment filed on 7/14/2009.

Response to Amendment

2. The examiner has acknowledged the amended claims 1, 3-5, 11, 14, 15, 17-19, 22-24, 42-43, 46-48, and cancelled claims 70-75. The objection to claim 1 has been corrected and withdrawn accordingly. The objection to claim 72 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the claim. The 112 second paragraph rejections to claims 3, 11, 14, 15, 19, and 22 have been corrected and withdrawn accordingly. Claims 1-24 and 42-48 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 19-20, filed 7/14/2009, with respect to the 112 first paragraph rejection of claims 1-24, and 42-48 on Web service providing apparatus have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments, see pages 20-21, filed 7/14/2009, with respect to the 112 first paragraph rejection of claims 1-24, and 42-48 on "target information type", "target information type determination part", and "target information type determination step" have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that one of ordinary skill would recognize the document type acquirable from the image forming apparatus 1000 and writable in the image forming apparatus 1200 as a non-limiting example of the claimed target information type. However, the claimed target information type is much broader

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than the document type. One of ordinary skill would not equate the claimed target information type to the document type (e.g., an apple is a fruit, but a fruit is not an apple). Thus the rejection is sustained.

5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 21-22, filed 7/14/2009, with respect to the 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1- 16, 18-21, 23, 42-45, and 47 on "configured to" have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.
6. Applicant's arguments, see page 23, filed 7/14/2009, with respect to the 112 second paragraph rejection of claim 1 on "processable" have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.
7. Applicant's arguments, see pages 23-24, filed 7/14/2009, with respect to the 101 rejection of claims 1- 11, 18-21, and 42-45 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.
8. Applicant's arguments with respect to the 102 rejections have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

9. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
10. The incorporation of essential material in the specification by reference to an unpublished U.S. application, foreign application or patent, or to a publication is

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improper. Applicant is required to amend the disclosure to include the material incorporated by reference, if the material is relied upon to overcome any objection, rejection, or other requirement imposed by the Office. The amendment must be accompanied by a statement executed by the applicant, or a practitioner representing the applicant, stating that the material being inserted is the material previously incorporated by reference and that the amendment contains no new matter. 37 CFR 1.57(f).

Claim Objections

11. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 6, “the image forming second apparatus” should be “the second image forming apparatus”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

12. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

13. Claims 1-11, 18-21, and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

There is no support in the original specification for claimed subject matters “target information type”, “target information type determination part”, and “target information type determination step”. See Response to Arguments above.

14. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

15. Claims 1, 17, 18, 22-24, 42, and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are still generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

For example, claim 1 recites the limitation "a target information type determination part configured to determine a target information type that is processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus, the target information type determination part being configured to determine the target information type based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus". It is unclear exactly what “shared” means, and what is the outcome of the determination. Claims 17, 18, 22-24, 42, and 46-48 recite similar limitations. They are rejected for the same reason.

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Claim 45 recites the limitation "the communication line" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Applicant is reminded of other similar 112 second paragraph issues in other claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 1-14, 17-24, and 42-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamane et al. (US 6,317,786 B1, hereinafter Yamane), and in view of Amstein et al. (US 5,793,966, hereinafter Amstein).

Regarding claim 1, Yamane discloses a Web service providing apparatus, comprising:

a controller including

a server processing part configured to control receipt of a process request for a process from a requesting apparatus connected to the Web service providing apparatus via a communication network, and to control transmission of a process response corresponding to the process request to the requesting apparatus in accordance with a predetermined protocol, the process request including a command to retrieve target information from an image forming apparatus connected to the Web service providing apparatus via the

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communication network [Manager FIG. 1 and col. 16, lines 19-31; col. 21, lines 14-24];

a condition acquisition control part configured to control, in response to an instruction from the server processing part, acquisition of the target information designated by the process request from the image forming apparatus that manages the target information based on the determined target information type [col. 9, lines 22-37]; and

a service providing part configured to perform the requested process on the target information and to send a result of the process to the server processing part [col. 5, lines 6-28, application].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for a target information type determination part configured to determine a target information type that is processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus, the target information type determination part being configured to determine the target information type based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and

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the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's system for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

Regarding claim 2, Yamane further discloses wherein the controller includes a processor configured to execute

- a program including the condition acquisition control part and the service providing part [Agent FIG. 1 and col. 9, lines 22-37];

- a control service managing a hardware resource used in the process [Agent, col. 11 Table 1]; and

- an operating system controlling the program and the control service [col. 9, lines 22-24].

Regarding claim 3, Yamane further discloses wherein the controller further includes a client processing part configured to control, in response to an instruction issued by the condition acquisition control part, transmission of a process request to the image forming apparatus and receipt of a process

response from the management apparatus in accordance with the predetermined protocol [Web Server Interface FIG. 1 and col. 14 line 26 through col.16 line 17].

Regarding claim 4, Yamane further discloses wherein the condition acquisition control part comprises;

a sequence control part configured to control a sequence of processes to acquire the first processable target information type list regarding the target information from the image forming apparatus and internally acquire the second processable target information type list regarding the target information in the Web service providing apparatus [col. 9 line 63 through col. 12 line 20, Agent interaction with Manager]; and

the target information type determination part configured to determine the target information type based on the first processable target information type list and the second processable target information type list acquired by the sequence control part [col. 12 line 21 through col. 14 line 25, Agent interaction with Web Server Interface].

Regarding claim 5, Yamane further discloses wherein the sequence control part comprises:

a first control part configured to control the client processing part to acquire the first processable target information type list from the image forming apparatus by sending a process request for the first processable

target information type list to the image forming apparatus [col. 9 line 63 through col. 10 line 28];

a second control part configured to control the client processing part to acquire the second processable target information type list from the Web service providing apparatus by internally issuing a process request for the second processable target information type list to the server processing part [col. 10 lines 29-45];

a determination instruction part configured to cause the target information type determination part to make the determination based on the first processable target information type list and the second processable target information type list [col. 12 lines 14-45]: and

an information acquisition configured to acquire the target information from the image forming apparatus in accordance with the target information type determined by the target information type determination part [col. 13 line 19 through col. 14 line 25].

Regarding claim 6, Yamane further discloses wherein the client processing part comprises:

a process request creation part configured to, in response to an instruction issued by the sequence control part, create a process request, which is to be sent to the image forming apparatus, corresponding to the instruction in

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accordance with the predetermined protocol [Web Server Interface FIG. 1 and col. 14, lines 26-49]; and

a process response interpretation part configured to interpret a process response, which is received from the image forming apparatus, corresponding to the process request and to inform a result of the interpretation to the sequence control part [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server].

Regarding claim 7, Yamane further discloses wherein the service providing part comprises a service execution part configured to execute the process corresponding to the process request received from the requesting apparatus or a process request that is internally created [col. 5, lines 6-28, application].

Regarding claim 8, Yamane further discloses wherein the server processing part comprises:

a process request interpretation part configured to interpret the process request to request the process on the target information in accordance with the predetermined protocol [Interceptor FIG. 1 and col. 7, lines 29-65]; and

a process response creation part configured to create a process response to indicate a result of the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [Web Server Interface FIG. 1 and col. 14, lines 26-49].

Regarding claim 9, Yamane further discloses wherein the process request interpretation part comprises:

a determination part configured to determine whether the process request is to acquire the target information from the image forming apparatus [col. 8, lines 9-50]; and

a notification part configured to inform the condition acquisition control part of the process request based on a result of the determination made by the determination part [col. 8 line 51 through col. 9 line 20].

Regarding claim 10, Yamane further discloses wherein the process response creation part comprises a control result creation part configured to create a process response to indicate a result of the control of the condition acquisition control part in accordance with the predetermined protocol [Web Server Interface FIG. 1 and col. 14, lines 26-49].

Regarding claim 11, Yamane further discloses wherein the condition acquisition control part comprises:

an attribute information acquisition part configured to acquire attribute information regarding the target information from the image forming apparatus [col. 9 line 63 through col.10 line 5]; and

a control part configured to cause a client processing part to internally issue the process request for the process on the target information to the client processing part based on the attribute information [col. 10 lines 46-67],

wherein the service providing part is configured to execute the process requested by the requesting apparatus via the server processing part based on the attribute information.

Regarding claim 12, Yamane further discloses a display part, the display part comprising:

a display part including

a first display part configured to display a list of selectable apparatuses that a user is allowed to select among apparatuses connected via the communication network [FIG. 6 and col. 21, lines 34-49];

a second display part configured to, when the user selects a desired apparatus from the list of apparatuses, display a list of information items managed by the image forming apparatus [FIG. 7 and col. 21, lines 49-52];

and

an apparatus determination part configured to, when the user designates a desired information item from the list of information items and the desired apparatus from the list of selectable apparatuses, determine the designated apparatus as a processing apparatus to perform the process [col. 20 line 50 through col. 21 line 33].

Regarding claim 13, Yamane further discloses wherein the second display part is configured to display the information items in a reduced size on the display part [FIG. 7 vs. FIG. 6].

Regarding claim 14, Yamane further discloses wherein the requesting apparatus is one of the Web service providing apparatus, the image forming apparatus and a terminal connected to each other via the communication network [col. 8 line 51 through col. 9 line 2].

Regarding claim 17, Yamane discloses a method of providing a Web service for a Web service providing apparatus, the method comprising:

a server processing step of controlling, by the Web service providing apparatus, receipt of a process request for a process from a requesting apparatus, connected to the Web service providing apparatus via a communication network, and transmission of a process response corresponding to the process request to the requesting apparatus in accordance with a predetermined protocol, the process request including a command to retrieve target information from an image forming apparatus connected to the Web service providing apparatus via the communication network [Manager FIG. 1 and col. 16, lines 19-31; col. 21, lines 14-24];

a condition acquisition control step of controlling, in response to an instruction from the server processing step, acquisition of the target information designated by the process request from the image forming apparatus that manages the target information based on the determined target information type [Agent FIG. 1 and col. 9, lines 22-37]; and

a service providing step of performing the requested process on the target information and informing the server processing step of a result of the process [col. 5, lines 6-28, application].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for a determination step of determining a target information type that is processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus, the target information type being determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a determination step of determining a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type being determined based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

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Regarding claim 18, Yamane discloses a Web service providing apparatus, comprising:

a controller including

a service providing part configured to manage target information and to provide the target information to an image forming apparatus, which requests the target information based on a process request including a command to retrieve the target information from the Web service providing apparatus and performs a process on the target information, in accordance with a target information type received from the image forming apparatus [col. 5, lines 6-28, application];

a process request interpretation part configured to interpret the process request to request the process in accordance with a predetermined protocol and to inform the service providing part of the process [Interceptor FIG. 1 and col. 7, lines 29-65]; and

a process response creation part configured to create a process response to indicate a result of the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [Web Server Interface FIG. 1 and col. 14, lines 26-49].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the image forming apparatus performs a process on the target information, in accordance with a target information type received from the image forming apparatus, the target information type being processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus and determined based on whether the target

information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

Regarding claim 19, Yamane further discloses wherein the service providing part comprises a processable condition providing part configured to, in response to receipt of a process request to acquire the second processable target information type list with respect to the image forming apparatus, send a process response to indicate the second processable target information type list in accordance with the predetermined protocol, and after the transmission of the

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process response to indicate the second processable target information type list, the service providing part being configured to provide the target information to the image forming apparatus in accordance with the target information type received from the image forming apparatus [col. 5, lines 6-28, application].

Regarding claim 20, Yamane further discloses:

a process request creation part configured to create the process request to request the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface]; and

a process response interpretation part configured to interpret the received process response corresponding to the process request [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server].

Regarding claim 21, Yamane further discloses a display part, the display part comprising;

A display part including

a first display part configured to display a list of selectable apparatuses that a user is allowed to select among apparatuses connected via a communication line [FIG. 6 and col. 21, lines 34-49];

a second display part configured to, when the user selects a desired apparatus from the list of selectable apparatuses, display a list of information items managed by the selected apparatus [FIG. 7 and col. 21, lines 49-52];
and

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an apparatus determination part configured to, when the user designates a desired information item from the list of information items and the desired apparatus from the list of selectable apparatuses, determine the designated apparatus as the image forming apparatus [col. 20 line 50 through col. 21 line 33].

Regarding claim 22, Yamane discloses a method of providing a Web service for a Web service providing apparatus, the method comprising:

a service providing step of managing, by the Web service providing apparatus, target information and providing the target information to an image forming apparatus, which requests the target information based on a process request including a command to retrieve the target information from the Web service providing apparatus [col. 5, lines 6-28, application],

a process request interpretation step of interpreting the process request to request the process in accordance with a predetermined protocol and informing the service providing step of the process [Interceptor FIG. 1 and col. 7, lines 29-65]; and

a process response creation step of creating a process response to indicate a result of the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [Web Server Interface FIG. 1 and col. 14, lines 26-49].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the image forming apparatus performs a process on the target information, based on a target

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information type received from the image forming apparatus, the target information type being processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

Regarding claim 23, Yamane discloses a terminal, comprising:

a display unit;

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a process request creation part configured to create a process request to cause a first image forming apparatus to acquire target information managed by a second image forming apparatus from the second image forming apparatus in accordance with a target information type and perform a process on the target information in accordance with a predetermined protocol, wherein the process request is transmitted to the first image forming apparatus and includes a command to retrieve target information from the second image forming apparatus, the first image forming apparatus, the second image forming apparatus, and the terminal are connected to each other via a communication network [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface];

a process response interpretation part configured to interpret a process response corresponding to the process request and to acquire a result of the process performed by the first image forming apparatus [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server]; and

a display control part configured to display the result of the process on a display unit of the terminal [Console FIG. 1 and col. 20, lines 49-65].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the target information type is processable by both the first image forming apparatus and the second image forming apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the first image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the

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second image forming apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

Regarding claim 24, Yamane discloses a computer-readable storage medium having embedded therein instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause a terminal to perform a method, comprising:

a process request creation step of creating a process request to request a first image forming apparatus to acquire target information managed by a second image forming apparatus from the image forming second apparatus in accordance with a target information type and perform a process on the target information in accordance with a predetermined protocol, wherein

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the process request being is transmitted to the first image forming apparatus and includes a command to retrieve target information from the second image forming apparatus, the first image forming apparatus, the second image forming apparatus, and the terminal are connected to each other via a communication network [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface];

a process response interpretation step of interpreting a process response corresponding to the process request and acquiring a result of the process of the first image forming apparatus [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server]; and

a display control step of displaying the result of the process on a display unit of the terminal [Console FIG. 1 and col. 20, lines 49-65].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the target information type is processable by both the first image forming apparatus and the second image forming apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the first image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the second image forming apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to

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determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

Regarding claim 42, Yamane discloses a web service providing apparatus, comprising:

- a controller including

- a service providing part configured to perform, in response to a process request, a process on target information received from an image forming apparatus that manages the target information in accordance with a target information type and to provide a result of the process to the forming apparatus, the process request including a command to retrieve the target information from the image forming apparatus [col. 5, lines 6-28, application];

- a process request interpretation part configured to interpret the process request for the process in accordance with a predetermined protocol and to inform the service providing part of the process [Interceptor FIG. 1 and col. 7, lines 29-65]; and

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a process request creation part configured to create a process response to indicate a result of the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the target information type being processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

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Regarding claim 43, Yamane further discloses wherein the service providing part comprises a processable condition providing part configured to, in response to receipt of a process request to acquire the second processable target information type list with respect to the image forming apparatus, send a process response to indicate the second processable target information type list in accordance with the predetermined protocol, and after the transmission of the second processable target information type list, the service providing part being configured to provide a result of the process on the target information received from the image forming apparatus in accordance with the target information type [col. 5 line 29 through col. 7 line 28].

Regarding claim 44, Yamane further discloses:

- a process request creation part configured to create the process request for the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface]; and

- a process response interpretation part configured to interpret the received process response corresponding to the process request [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server].

Regarding claim 45, Yamane further discloses a display part, the display part including:

- a first display part configured to display a list of selectable apparatuses that a user is allowed to select among apparatuses connected via the communication line [FIG. 6 and col. 21, lines 34-49];

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a second display part configured to, when the user selects a desired apparatus from the list of selectable apparatuses, display a list of information items managed by the selected apparatus [FIG. 7 and col. 21, lines 49-52]; and

an apparatus determination part configured to, when the user designates a desired information item from the list of information items and the desired apparatus from the list of selectable apparatuses, determine the designated apparatus as a processing apparatus [col. 20 line 50 through col. 21 line 33].

Regarding claim 46, Yamane discloses a method of providing a Web service for a Web service providing apparatus, the method comprising:

a service providing step of performing, by the Web service providing apparatus, in response to a process request, a process on target information received from an image forming apparatus managing the target information in accordance with a target information type and providing a result of the process to the image forming apparatus, the process request including a command to retrieve the target information from the image forming apparatus [col. 5, lines 6-28, application];

a process request interpretation step of interpreting the process request to request the process in accordance with a predetermined protocol and informing the service providing step of the process [Interceptor FIG. 1 and col. 7, lines 29-65]; and

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a process request creation step of creating a process response to indicate a result of the process in accordance with the predetermined protocol [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the target information type being processable by both the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the Web service providing apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

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Regarding claim 47, Yamane discloses a terminal, comprising:

A display unit;

a process request creation part configured to create a process request to cause a first image forming apparatus to perform a process on target information managed by a second image forming apparatus by sending the target information to the first image forming apparatus in accordance with a target information type, wherein the process request is transmitted to the first image forming apparatus and includes a command to retrieve the target information from the second image forming apparatus, the first image forming apparatus, the second image forming apparatus, and the terminal are connected to each other via a communication network [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface];

a process response interpretation part configured to interpret a process response corresponding to the process request and to acquire a result of the process performed by the first image forming apparatus [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server]; and

a display control part configured to display the result of the process on a display unit of the terminal [Console FIG. 1 and col. 20, lines 49-65].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the target information type is processable by both the first image forming apparatus and the second image forming apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the first image

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forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the second image forming apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

Regarding claim 48, Yamane discloses a computer-readable storage medium having embedded therein instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause a terminal to perform a method comprising:

a process request creating step of creating a process request to cause a first image forming apparatus to perform a process on target information managed by a second image forming apparatus by sending the target information to the first image forming apparatus in accordance with a target

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information type, wherein the process request is transmitted to the first image forming apparatus and includes a command to retrieve the target information from the second image forming apparatus, the first image forming apparatus, the second image forming apparatus, and the terminal are connected to each other via a communication network [col. 12, lines 22-46, Agent interface with Web Server Interface];

a process response interpretation step of interpreting a process response corresponding to the process request and acquiring a result of the process performed by the first image forming apparatus [col. 13, lines 38-67, Agent interface with Web Server]; and

a display control step of displaying the result of the process on a display unit of the terminal [Console FIG. 1 and col. 20, lines 49-65].

Yamane discloses the claimed invention except for the target information type is processable by both the first image forming apparatus and the second image forming apparatus and determined based on whether the target information type is shared between a first processable target information type list of the first image forming apparatus and a second processable target information type list of the second image forming apparatus. Amstein discloses a computer system and computer-implemented process for creation and maintenance of online services. Amstein further discloses a document type determination part configured to determine a document type that is processable by both the client machine and the server machine, the document type determination part being configured to

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determine the document type based on whether the document type is shared between a first processable document type list of the client machine and a second processable document type list of the server machine [Fig. 3 and col. 15, lines 39-59]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Amstein's teaching into Yamane's method for the purpose of having same/compatible document type such that the no conversion is needed between the image forming apparatus and the Web service providing apparatus.

18. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamane and Amstein as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Butterworth et al. (US 2004/0133656 A1, hereinafter Butterworth).

Regarding claim 15, Yamane and Amstein disclose the claimed invention except for wherein the communication network is one of a network communication line including a wireless LAN, a serial communication network including an infrared communication, and a parallel communication line.

Butterworth teaches a networked computer environment 300 that supports a distributed web service. The computer network 300 includes a client computer 302 connected to a communication link 304, which may be any wired or wireless communication link [FIG. 3 and para. 0006]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Butterworth's teaching into Yamane's and Amstein's method for the purpose of having communication lines like a wireless LAN, a serial

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communication line, or a parallel communication line in the system such that the users can communicate with the web service provider to obtain services.

Regarding claim 16, Yamane and disclose the claimed invention except for wherein the predetermined protocol is a Simple Object Access Protocol.

Butterworth teaches that messages between clients and web services may use SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) [para. 0012]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Butterworth's teaching into Yamane's and Amstein's method for the purpose of defining a uniform way of passing XML-encoded data and defining a way to perform remote procedure calls using HTTP (or another transport protocol) as the underlying communication protocol by using a SOAP, thereby increasing the opportunities for reuse, as the service places essentially no constraints on the platform, language, or location of its clients [para. 0012].

Conclusion

19. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory

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period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL C. LAI whose telephone number is (571)270-3236. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael C. Lai

04NOV2009

/YVES DALENCOURT/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457